Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02892 250741Z ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 TRSE-00 EB-08 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 PA-01 OMB-01 /055 W

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R 250537Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 2892

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8074

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN, LE

SUBJ: GOL 5-YEAR TREASURY BOND DRIVE RAISES LL 75 MILLION

REF: BEIRUT 2681

- 1. RESULTS OF GOL 5-YEAR BOND ISSUED MAY 20 (REFTEL)
 POSITIVE. BANK OFFERS TO BUY EXCEEDED LL 100 MILLION AT
 INTEREST RATES RANGING BETWEEN 6.5 AND 8 PERCENT.
 MINFINANCE ELECTED TO ACCEPT BANK OFFERS AS BID RATHER
 THAN SET AN AVERAGE PRICE FOR THE ISSUE TO ALL BIDDERS AND
 THEREFORE, IN INTEREST OF AN EQUITABLE SALE, RESTRICTED ITS
 ACCEPTANCE TO SPAN OF ONE-HALF PERCENT BETWEEN 6.5 AND
 7.9 PERCENT INTEREST. OFFERS TO SUBSCRIBE IN THAT RANGE
 TOTALED 75.1 MILLION (\$25.8 MILLION), SO THAT FIXED THE
 AMOUNT OF THE ISSUE. AVERAGE COST TO GOL THIS CAPITAL
 IS APPROXIMATELY 6.9 PERCENT.
- 2. COMMENT: INTEREST RATE IS IN LINE WITH GOL EXPECTATIONS AND THE AMOUNT AT LL 75 MILLION IS HEALTHY. ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE, LL 100 MILLION COULD HAVE BEEN TAPPED BY EXTENDING THE ACCEPTANCE RANGE ONE-QUARTER PERCENT, BUT GOL WAS UNWILLING ALIENATE LOW BIDDERS OR EXCEED 7 PERCENT RATE IN ORDER TO INCREASE ITS TAKE. MOST OFFERS CLEARLY WERE IN 7-7 1/2 PERCENT RANGE. BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORLD STANDARDS THIS IS RELATIVELY CHEAP MONEY THAT CAN BE EXPLAINED BY LEBANON'S UNUSUAL COMBINATION OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY, LOW INVESTMENT DEMAND AND HIGH BANK LIQUIDITY. UNLESS ADVERSE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS INTERVENE IN THE MEANTIME, WE EXPECT GOL WILL ATTEMPT ANOTHER ROUND OF MEDIUM-TERM BONDS IN LATE SUMMER. LANE

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